

op 3, issue 5

**onauts receive supplies**

May 15 (R)—An unmanned cargo ship today delivered a tulip to two cosmonauts aboard the station a month after a manned craft failed in a trip. The sixth "progress" craft to be launched over months was guided into Salyut's docking bay in the morning by cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Valery Kubasov. Two have been on board since February 26. Like its predecessor, the successful Salyut programme, Progress-6 will fuel, air, water, food and scientific equipment enable the crew to continue its marathon flight. The crew was a present from Soviet space scientists who believe cosmonauts would appreciate a sign of the earthly missing. The tulip is expected to bloom in coming days in the 19-ton station and provide new information on life in space, Tass News Agency reported.

Number 1056

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY MAY 16, 1979 — JAMADI AL THANI 18, 1399

**Attempted coup in Ghana foiled**

LONDON, May 15 (R) — Accra Radio reported today that an Air Force officer and a handful of airmen made an unsuccessful attempt to stage an uprising in Ghana this morning. The broadcast, monitored here, said the officer and the airmen had been overpowered and were in military custody. The official statement said one of the airmen had been killed. It gave no details. Accra Radio said reports of the uprising caused a stampede in the market place where stalls hastily abandoned by their owners were looted. Most shops closed. Parents ran to schools to take their children home. Until July last year Ghana was ruled by former Gen. Ignatius Acheampong who was deposed by his colleagues in the ruling Supreme Military Council. He was replaced by Gen. Fred Akuffo, who has pledged to return the country to civilian government on July 1.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

*three days of militia street fighting***banese rightwing in joint command**

May 15 (R) — Lebanon's two main parties today signed a joint command statement after three days of fighting between them which claimed 100 dead.

Both heads of the NLP and the Falangist Kataeb, are already supposed to be unified under the banner of the "Lebanese forces" military alliance set up during the 1975-76 civil war here.

The two parties' militias, the NLP's Tigers and the Falangist Kataeb, are already supposed to be unified under the banner of the "Lebanese forces" military alliance set up during the 1975-76 civil war here.

The two political parties are also linked in a Lebanese front alliance.

In Damascus, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis and his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad held a second day of talks on how to restore security to Lebanon.

The semi-official Syrian newspaper Al Thawra indicated that the summit was not likely to come

up with a complete solution to Lebanon's problems. It described the meeting as only "a prelude to a complete recovery."

Syria is the only Arab country still represented in a 30,000-man Arab Deterrent force (ADF) in Lebanon.

Lebanese newspapers have said the presidents are discussing a plan to replace the Syrians with Lebanese troops in some areas, a ban on armed men on the streets and the closing of tactical radio stations, offices and training centres.

The two presidents were also expected to discuss the situation in South Lebanon where renegade army major Saad Haddad has declared an independent "Free Lebanon" in a tiny strip of land along the Israeli border.

In an interview with Reuters inside his Israeli-backed enclave yesterday the major echoed widespread rightist demands for the removal of Syrian troops and Palestinian guerrillas from Lebanon.

**Warsaw Pact ministers adopt joint programme**

BUDAPEST, May 15 (Agencies)—Soviet bloc foreign ministers ended an annual conference today after only 1-1/2 days in session.

The end of the meeting, originally expected to continue until this evening, was announced by the Hungarian news agency MTI, which said Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko left immediately afterwards by air for Moscow.

MTI said the foreign ministers of the seven Warsaw Pact countries adopted a joint programme. The document was not immediately made public.

**ional Briefs**

May 15 (R)—President Ahmed Hassan Al Bakr sent a written message from North Yemeni President al-Bakr on the means of consolidating bilateral relations. The message was conveyed by the Yemeni Minister of Information, Mr. Yehya Al Arashi, who arrived as special envoy of President Saleh. Mr. Arashi similar messages to President Hafez Al Assad of Majlis King Hussein.

May 15 (R)—Venezuelan Mines and Energy Minister Calderon Berti had talks today with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, Arab News Agency (WAM) said. They discussed issues in the petroleum field, WAM said. Mr. Calderon in Abu Dhabi last night on the third leg of a tour which has already taken him to Kuwait, and

India's Minister of State for External Affairs Kundu arrived today on a two-day official visit. He will have talks with Mr. Berti tomorrow, it added. Mr. Kundu's visit to Bahrain and Tunisia, is connected with the summit conference of non-aligned countries in New Delhi from Muscat.

May 15 (R)—Arab tanker owners will from next week take their tankers as one fleet instead of separately as insurance company executive, Mr. Wasif Jabsheh, said. His decision was taken yesterday at a two-day conference of Arab hydrocarbons companies from the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and the Libyan Jamahiriya. Mr. Jabsheh, general manager of Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company, valued the tanker fleet at between two to three billion dollars, while the tanker insurance was restricted to Arab companies, the re-insurance would be international, he said.

Iran's finance minister before the Feb. 11, Mr. Rostam Pirasteh, has surrendered to the taking sources said today. Mr. Pirasteh was managing director of the International Bank of Iran. He became minister last January in the cabinet of Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar, who resigned at the height of Iran's revolution.

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**Tito to visit Moscow**

MOSCOW, May 15 (Agencies)—Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito arrives here tomorrow for "unofficial" but potentially crucial talks with ailing Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Diplomatic observers in Moscow will be watching the visit closely for signs of how well the 72-year-old Brezhnev copes with several rounds of talks with Tito, both here and at the Soviet leader's secret villa in the Crimea.

This is expected to provide valuable hints about what Mr. Brezhnev's condition may be when he meets on June 15-16 in Vienna with U.S. President Jimmy Carter to sign the new SALT II treaty.

President Tito himself will turn 87 later this month. As a 25-year-old activist he had taken part personally in the 1917 Bolshevik revolution—at a time when Brezhnev was still a boy of 11.

Yet despite his advanced age, President Tito is said to be in considerably better health than Mr. Brezhnev, who recently has shown more pronounced problems with his speech, hearing and walk.

Earlier this year, signs of mounting friction emerged when the Soviet Union charged that Yugoslav news media had mounted a "gross propagandistic campaign" in reporting on the war in Cambodia between pro-Chinese and Soviet-backed Vietnamese forces.

Belgrade, in turn, has accused Moscow of trying to use Cuba to split the world non-aligned movement which President Tito helped to found and has supported for many years.

Western diplomatic sources here said those and other issues, among them Belgrade's independent political stands, were expected to figure in the Moscow talks.

**Castro to visit Mexico**

HAVANA, May 15 (R)—Cuban President Fidel Castro leaves for Mexico on Thursday for a two-day visit, his first trip there since he left it 23 years ago to launch the guerrilla war in Cuba which brought him to power.

A brief official statement said the Cuban leader would hold talks with Mexican leader Jose Lopez Portillo on Thursday and Friday on the island of Cozumel off Mexico's east coast.

Talks were expected to relate to the increasing economic ties between the two countries, particularly possible technical help by Mexico for Cuba's vital sugar industry.

The two leaders may also discuss an oil trade-off agreement under which the Soviet Union would divert some oil supplies from Cuba to Spain, while Mexico would channel some supplies marked for Spain to Cuba to cut shipping costs.

President Castro has not been to Mexico since he left it for Cuba in a small boat with 80 poorly-armed men in December, 1956, to set the spark to the revolution.

During the attempted isolation of Cuba by the Organisation of American States from 1964 to 1975, Mexico was the only Latin American country not to sever ties with Cuba. Four years ago, the then Mexican President Luis Echeverria visited Cuba.

Dr. Castro's visit will be only his second to the Latin American continent in about 20 years. In 1971, he called on Marxist President Salvador Allende in Chile, stopping in Peru and Ecuador on the way.

**Jordan Times**

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

**Settlers, Arabs clash in occupied W. Bank**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 15 (Agencies) — Jewish settlers and Arab youths in the occupied West Bank of Jordan clashed today when armed

settlers forced the Arabs to remove a stone barricade on the road near Birzeit.

elligence) Applied Research Centre.

Asked if Israel should continue settlement activity in the West Bank, 57 per cent of the 1,249 adults polled said yes, 36.1 per cent said no with 6.9 per cent not replying or undecided.

Asked if preference should be given to new settlement activity in Galilee—within Israel's 1967 borders—or the West Bank, 65.8 per cent thought priority should be given to Galilee, while 24.1 per cent opted for new villages in the West Bank and 10.1 per cent were undecided or did not reply.

Galilee is mainly populated by Arabs.

**Chief of Court returns from U.S.**

AMMAN, May 15 (JNA)—The American public has now come to realise that the euphoria created by the Egyptian-Israeli separate peace treaty was deceptive, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf said in a statement upon arrival here today at the end of a ten-day visit to the United States.

U.S. public opinion has come a long way since the days when information media in the United States had described the treaty as a step towards comprehensive peace in the Middle East, he said.

Sharif Abdul Hamid said that he had formed the impression that U.S. officials, as well as the American public, feel that the Carter administration has to go beyond its current position and face the issue of securing a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East with full responsibility.

Both officials and the public feel that the U.S. must also face the issue of securing the Palestinian people's national rights and bringing about the withdrawal of Israeli forces of occupation from Arab territories in the framework of a comprehensive settlement, for that is the unanimous Arab position with the exception of only one state, as was demonstrated in the Arab summit conference in Baghdad, he said.

U.S. public opinion is inclined to reconsider the situation but, he said, the Arab states ought to explain their position further on what constitutes a genuine basis for a comprehensive and just Middle East settlement.

In answer to a question, Sharif Abdul Hamid said he had not conveyed any specific new proposal to U.S. officials. He had, however, explained the Arab point of view.

During the visit, Sharif Abdul Hamid attended the annual conference of the National Association of Arab Americans and delivered a major speech outlining Jordan's view vis-a-vis the Middle East question and the Arab stand in general in the light of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad.

He also met with various government officials and with the Senate and House foreign relations committees.

Among the senior American leaders he met were Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, National Security Affairs Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and Secretary of Defense Harold Brown.

**Iranian press crisis grows****Kayhan journalists walk out, workers put out pirate edition**

TEHRAN, May 15 (Agencies)—Journalists walked out at Iran's biggest newspaper today in protest against encroachments on press freedom. But workers defied the editor and their colleagues to bring out a pirate edition of the paper, the afternoon daily Kayhan.

The conflict is part of a growing crisis in the Iranian press and a reflection of the power struggle now going on between leftists and Muslim fundamentalists who joined forces last winter to overthrow the Shah.

A senior editorial spokesman at Kayhan told Reuters today that since the February revolution, whenever a journalist wrote an article which the workers considered too critical of the new regime, the workers would refuse to print it and storm through the office shouting "Allahu Akbar."

The liberal independent daily Paygham Emruz has complained that its copies have been burned in the provinces and news vendors beaten up for selling it.

The capital's other afternoon daily, Eteelaat, printed a front page editorial today calling on Ayatollah Khomeini to stop "irresponsible people interfering with the press and acting against press freedom."

At Kayhan, which normally circulates about one million copies,

a picture of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Meanwhile, three officers of the Shah's security forces, including two from the hated Savak secret police, were executed by firing squad early today after being found guilty of massacring people and "waging war on God."

The three who died today had been condemned on Sunday night and brought the number of political executions since the overthrow of the monarchy to at least 209.

**Iranian Arabs overrun police station**

KORRAMSHAH, Iran May 15 (AP)—About 60 members of the political organisation "Arab People of Iran" attacked and overran the police headquarters of this frontier city in southeastern Iran, authorities reported today. The attack last night, took place as Admiral Ahmad Madani, Governor General of Iran's oil rich Khuzestan province, was conferring with Ayatollah Mohammad Taher Al Shobeir Khaghani, the spiritual leader of the Arab speaking Iranians. Their discussions centered on how to avert clashes like the one that erupted Sunday in Khorramshahr between members of the "Arab People of Iran" and rival group in which 8 persons were injured and more than 10 taken hostage.

The incident was another indication of the dangerous tension that exists between the ethnic Arab minority in Khuzestan and the central government in Tehran. The Arab minority seeks some form of local autonomy.

Admiral Madani who is also chief of the navy, told the Associated Press in Khorramshahr that because of the prevailing situation in the crucial province, "general disarmament would be carried out in Khuzestan before anywhere else in the country."

He stressed that "from now on, we are not going to deal leniently with opportunistic elements in the region."

Admiral Madani claimed that most of the arms found in Khuzestan are smuggled from a neighbouring country which he declined to name.

# Jordan Times

An independent newspaper daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Mondays.

Subscription rates are available from Jordan Times, Amman, Jordan.

## Lebanese portents

IT IS CLEAR by now that the setback which the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty presented to Arab interests and Arab rights can, must be, will be turned into a victory for those same rights and interests.

This is seen in the universality of the Arab response to the Egyptian-Israeli challenge, as well as in individual responses among and between Arab states: increased political and economic cooperation, closer diplomatic coordination, hastened steps towards unity. In this sense, the very aggressiveness of Zionist expansionism can, with the application of sufficient determination, be turned to the Arab advantage.

A testing ground of this thesis is Lebanon. The current effort by the Lebanese leaders and the Syrians who have lent their power and prestige to the cause of pacifying and unifying the rival Lebanese political forces to safeguard the sovereignty and very existence of that fragile entity, is therefore highly significant.

Despite Israel's blatant attempts to make Lebanon the premier Arab sacrificial victim of the new "era of peace" with Egypt, there are several encouraging signs that this Israeli strategy will backfire.

The Lebanese progressive forces, splintered into perhaps a dozen ideological factions and riven by contention over personalities and strategies, appear to be joining ranks to confront the new challenge from the rightist forces who are collaborating with the Israeli plot to undermine the sovereignty and unity of the country. While ultimately we can never take comfort from evidences of strife, we should cautiously welcome indications that the rightist forces are themselves falling into disarray. Renegade Major Saad Haddad's vicious threat to take reprisals against villagers who resist his Israeli-backed rebellion is likely only to harden the resolve of his would-be constituents to block his traitorous course.

There is no quick or easy solution to Lebanon's crisis, and Presidents Sarkis and Assad would be enraging in opting for the most stringent measures necessary to impose peace and security once again. Surely the fact that the Israelis have chosen this moment to step up their brutal aggression against the Palestinians in Lebanon must indicate a vital new role for the Palestinian resistance in whatever peace moves are proposed.

Lebanon has one common enemy, and that is an expansionist Israel bent on gaining on the north and east what it has just gained through the absorption of Egypt on the west. Mr. Begin, in fact, makes no secret of his desire for a "normalisation of relations" with Lebanon similar to that which he has achieved with Egypt.

That should be sufficient reason for all the Lebanese parties to end the internecine violence which is such a drain on common Arab resources and put their shoulders to the wider struggle at hand.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

UNDER THE TITLE "We will always remain strong", AL RA' in its editorial Wednesday quotes extensively from His Majesty King Hussein's recent address to the seminar of Islamic preachers and spiritual guides, and says that the King's address in affirming that Jordan will never accept to be a weak link in the Arab nation, "rises to the level of meeting the Arab responsibility of facing up to the challenges and dangers threatening Jordan and the Arab nation."

The paper says that the King was the first leader in the Arab World to call for the building up of indigenous Arab strength. Such strength is necessary for the Arabs to be able to shoulder their national duties, the paper says.

The King's address inspires the confidence that Jordan will always remain strong, the paper continues. His pledge to continue supporting the Arabs in the occupied territories, the paper adds, strengthens their will to close ranks in confronting the challenges posed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

In conclusion, the paper says that the King's address represents a call for all Arabs to be loyal in confronting Zionism which "threatens the Arab and Muslim character."

Commenting on the same subject AL DUSTOUR likewise says that Arabs and Muslims in general and spiritual guides in particular are aware of the significance of His Majesty King Hussein's presence at the seminar, and of his call on Arabs to uphold Islamic solidarity.

The King's concentration on Islamic solidarity and adherence to the heritage of Arabs and Islam as means of restoring usurped Arab rights is worth pondering, the paper says.

The King's assurance that Arabs will never abandon Jerusalem, and will continue to support their fellow Arabs in the occupied territories, the paper says, gives the 31st anniversary of the establishment of Israel a special meaning, and urges the Arabs to forget their grief over the loss of their homeland, and to start building up the strength with which to continue the struggle.

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# Aid to Jordan unchanged,

## U.S. officials confirm

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, May 15 — Official American sources here this week confirmed the recent statements of several Jordanian officials that the level of American aid to Jordan remains unchanged, despite the obvious differences in opinion of the two states on present political developments in the Middle East.

Finance Minister Mohammad Dabbas said earlier this week in a Kuwaiti newspaper interview that American aid to Jordan continues at its agreed upon level, while last week Jordan Valley Authority Vice President Munther Hadad said that American financial aid pledged for the Maqarin Dam project -- the cornerstone of

the massive Jordan Valley comprehensive development scheme also remains unchanged.

American sources told the Jordan Times that the commitment to donate \$150 million over three years for the Maqarin Dam remains unaltered, and that the present technical discussions taking place in various committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives have to do with the time-frame within which the money will actually be appropriated and spent.

The original plan was to provide three installments of \$50 million, \$38 million and \$62 million, in fiscal years 1979, 1980 and 1981 (the American fiscal year starts on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30). But because technical studies for the Maqarin Dam have been delayed, the first U.S. installment of \$50 million is unlikely to be paid before the end of this U.S. fiscal year on Sept. 30. This is because the aid agreement which has to be signed between the Jordanian government and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) needs to be preceded by a series of international meetings, involving World Bank officials and those of other countries providing aid for the Jordan Valley project.

U.S. law stipulates that if the appropriated aid is not used during the fiscal year for which it is approved, it does not carry over into the next year. Instead, a new appropriation decision has to be made, and this is what is taking place now in several congressional committees.

In view of the delay in the dam's technical studies and the likelihood that the \$50 million appropriated for this year will not be used by Jordan before Sept. 30, U.S. State Department officials have asked Congress to extend the first \$50 million installment for another year. This would allow Jordan to use the \$50 million installment during the 1980 fiscal year, and the second and third installments of the Maqarin Dam aid will then be provided in 1981 and 1982 respectively.

The technical discussions in Congress to reappropriate the Maqarin Dam aid for three years starting in 1980 have apparently been misinterpreted by some Arabic-language Jordanian news media to give the impression that the Maqarin Dam aid is being reduced by the United States. American officials say this is incorrect.

For fiscal year 1979, American aid to Jordan totalled \$99.2 million, excluding the money pledged for the Maqarin Dam. This breaks down into \$30 million in budget support, \$58 million in capital projects assistance (long-term concessionary loans), \$5 million in technical assistance grants (for manpower training, technical studies and health and agricultural sector assistance) and \$6.2 million in PL (Public Law) 480 aid, which goes primarily to buy American wheat.

Had the \$50 million Maqarin Dam appropriation for 1979 been used on time, total American aid to Jordan in 1979 would have been \$149.2 million.

For the coming 1980 U.S. fiscal year, the sources say, the White House and State Department have asked Congress to provide Jordan with \$60 million in aid as well as the Maqarin Dam money, or a total of \$110 million. This aid package is now being discussed by several congressional committees and will be approved sometime in September, though it could be altered by Congress.

It breaks down into \$20 million for budget support, \$32.7 million in capital projects assistance (all of which is earmarked for water pro-

jects) and \$7.3 million in technical assistance.

While this \$60 million request for 1980 is a drop from the \$93 million package of 1979, the American sources say this reflects the unusually high 1979 allocation that was distorted by a one-time aid injection of \$33 million for the potash project now being established along the southeastern shore of the Dead Sea.

If this special piece of aid is excluded, the level of American assistance to Jordan remains steady, and reflects a gradual shift from budget support to technical and capital project assistance.

### Birzeit V.P. protests Israeli 'vindictiveness'

AMMAN, May 15 — Vice President of Birzeit University, Dr. Gabi Barakat, told an impromptu press conference in the West Bank yesterday that the closure of the university had "gone beyond punishment and become an act of vindictiveness and revenge."

The university was ordered closed by the Israeli military governor of the Ramallah district on May 3, following the shooting of a student the day before by a Gush Emunim settler during a student demonstration protesting Israel's settlement policy. The school was closed for an indefinite period of time.

Birzeit students had planned to hold a press conference on campus yesterday to protest the closure.

But Israeli authorities refused to allow the students to meet the press. Dr. Barakat was told by the military government yesterday that only staff and faculty members would be allowed on campus during the closure, the Israeli press reported today.

Dr. Barakat said that his students had not engaged in stone-throwing during the May 2 demonstration, the reason given for the shooting of the student.

### 'Peace Now' grapevines prosper

AMMAN, May 15 (J.T.) — Contrary to a recent report saying that grapevines planted by Peace Now demonstrators on two Hebron hills had been uprooted by local Arab residents, the grapevines are all alive and enjoying the bright West bank sunshine.

Not only have the vines not been uprooted, they are being cared for and watered by the Arab residents, the Jerusalem Post reported today.

The unverified report broadcast by Israel Radio on Sunday said the Arab residents uprooted the vines because they feared they would serve as an excuse for a future Jewish claim to ownership of the land.

The Peace Now demonstrators planted the vines and some olive trees on the Ja'abari and Ma'mre hills last Friday to smooth over the cutting of 700 vines on a Ja'abari hill.

The 700 vines chopped down by disgruntled Gush Emunim settlers of Kiryat Arba, near Hebron, who became aggressive after hearing plans had been dropped to expand their settlement.

## ECONOSCOPE

# Why issue large currency denominations?

By Jawad Ahmad

THE PREVALENT use of large currency denominations has been the subject of analysis by many economists. If the currency in circulation tends to favour large denominations, then this is a sign of inflation. Smaller notes lose their purchasing power and they are used for convenience of exchange rather than anything else.

Well, that is how the theory goes. However, Dr. Berde Kenadian, the chief economist of the American Internal Revenue Service, produced a different interpretation. According to him, the increased use of large denominations is a measure of the size of the black economy.

In periods of inflation in the more developed economies people refrain from using money altogether. The psychological reaction to paying large sums is softened through more intensive use of cheques and credit cards as means of payment.

This was tested in the United States and Britain and was found to be true. In periods of inflation people were have actually expanded their use of methods of payment other than cash. The theory is not established yet and debate over it is still going on.

Well, let us test this theory in Jordan. The period 1973-1978 in Jordan witnessed an annual increase in prices that averaged about 13 to 14 percent. If we look at the JD 10 denomination we find that its share in the currency issued in the period 1973-77 did not increase in terms of percentages. In 1973, the percentage was 69.3, in 1974 it was 72.4, in 1975 it was 74.2, in 1976 it was 68.1, and in 1977 it was 74.3. The increase in these per-

centages is hardly high enough to show a parallel to the rates of inflation.

However, in 1978 the Central Bank of Jordan introduced the JD 20 denomination. If we add total currency in JD 10 and JD 20 denominations and compare this to the currency in circulation the percentage jumps to 81.1 in December. In the months of January, February and March 1979 the percentages were 81.9, 82.3 and 82.5 respectively.

The year 1978 was not a year of high inflation (only 7 percent) but the percentage of large currency denominations increased substantially.

Well, the use of cheques by Jordanians has increased, as is evident from the cheques deposited through the banks. Then we cannot include it as a variable. Therefore we have to find a solid theory.

It could be due to hoarding. When people prefer to do so in large denominations we find that the increase in money circulation compared to total deposits does not justify explanation. Moreover, the total value of all denominations has remained almost the same thus swapping one denomination for another does not actually take place.

Are there more black market dealers before? Well, how could anybody produce deuce to that end? The crux of the matter is the high percentage of large denominations resulted from the Central Bank's decision to larger notes. There may be no relation what is in Jordan between the size of denominations and thus swapping one denomination for another does not actually take place.

Near East region. The Land and Water Use Commission was set up by FAO in 1967 with the aim of supporting national programmes and grant ing aid and guidance to the efficiency of agriculture, dryland farming and to improve conditions of the people in related activities.

## Regional FAO meet on use of land, water ends

AMMAN, May 15 (JNA)—The

Regional Commission on Land

and Water Use in the Near East

today recommended the reactivation

of the work of national

committees on the use of land and

water and continued support of a

project on land and water spon

sored by the Cooperative Pro

gramme of the U.N. Food and

Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The recommendations were

adopted at the conclusion of a

three-day conference which

ended here today.

The conference voiced support

for a report by FAO's Technical

Cooperative Programme on rain

fed agriculture and called on go

vernments of the Near East region

and FAO to implement its

recommendations.

The conference also recom

mended that the region's na

tions promote management of soil

and water and conduct research pro

jects with the purpose of benefit

ing from used water in irrigati

on and from the employment of

organic waste as fertilisers.

The conference, which was held

at the University of Jordan, was

attended by 22 delegates from

Arab and other nations from the

### Jordan's envoy to W. Germany meets minister of state

AMMAN, May 15 (J.T.) — Con

trary to a recent report saying that

grapevines planted by Peace Now</p

*Process may be irreversible*

# King Talal Dam suffers from worsening pollution

TESTED DISSOLVED CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS AT TANNING CO. WELL NO. 1 (AWAJAN AREA)

Chlorine  
Sulphates  
Sodium  
Magnesium

1964 1966 1972 1976  
YEARS

GEDEON POLLUTION CONTROL SEC.

By Alan Martiny  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, May 15 — Pollution in the Zarqa River has become so severe lately that it is now threatening to destroy the usefulness of Jordan's largest man-made water supply: the King Talal Dam reservoir.

Only completed last year, the reservoir had been considered a possible source of water for Amman. But a recent government decision has turned the reservoir back over to the Jordan Valley Authority for agricultural use, probably due to the deterioration of the quality of the water.

But now there is concern that the water may be even too polluted for irrigation.

The problem lies in the dam's catchment area. The dam derives its water from a 3,300 square kilometre area taking in the most urbanised and industrialised region of Jordan: the Amman-Zarqa area.

In this zone lie 90 per cent of the country's industry, 66 per cent of the motor vehicles and 65 per cent of the country's population.

The real dangers to the King Talal Dam reservoir stem from increasing quantities of pollutants, especially minerals, such as phosphates, phosphorous and nitrates, which foster eutrophication.

"Eutrophication" means over-fertilisation of algae and other water plants in the streams and open waters. The result is an increase in the growth of algae and other plants which leads to a high production of organic material on the surface of the reservoir. As this material decomposes it causes a decrease in the oxygen content of the water below the surface.

With little oxygen the fish die. "A rapid increase in plankton production and the deterioration in the odour and taste of the water are the results of such a development," Dr. Elias Salameh, a professor at the University of Jordan, said in an article published last year on the dangers of eutrophication in the waters of the King Talal Dam reservoir. "The process is almost irreversible for

This is the second article in a four-part series on problems affecting water sources in the Amman region. Yesterday's article dealt with Amman's groundwater supply.

the reservoir and the water in it, therefore, is poisoned," he added.

Plankton growth in a body of water depends mainly on the availability of phosphates and nitrates. Nitrate concentrations in the Amman-Zarqa area are generally above the World Health Organisation (WHO) limit of 50 milligrams per litre, according to analyses carried out by the Natural Resources Authority.

When phosphates are present in concentrations of more than about 0.01 or 0.02 grammes per litre the algae will mass produce. The main sources of phosphates in the King Talal Dam catchment area are waste water, detergents and the soil.

Dr. Salameh estimates that about 712 tons of phosphates are deposited in the catchment area each year in the form of wastes. Detergents, he figures, provide another 365 tons of phosphates a year. Natural phosphates from the soil and deposits account for another 20 tons a year.

The total comes to 1,097 tons per year, representing a concentration of about 0.02 grammes per litre of phosphates in the total reservoir supply each year.

If the eutrophication process continues at the present rate, according to Dr. Salameh, it will cause an increasing productivity of plants in the water such as algal blooms, similar to the Red Tide occurring seasonally in some parts of the seas. The end result will be the complete breakdown of the ecosystem and the death of all fish.

"This development has already begun to take place in the King Talal Dam reservoir," he said.

Treatment of water containing algal blooms creates great difficulties. The decomposition of the algae within the filters produces gas bubbles which give the filtered water an unpleasant odour and taste.

The only real solution would be to keep the phosphates from reaching the reservoir. This, however, would be very expensive and would make the water costs very high. It would require the construction of fore-dams with plants for removing the phosphate.

## TODAY'S WEATHER

Temperatures will be below normal with low clouds and northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba there will be hazy weather with northerly fresh winds and calm seas.

	Nighttime low	Daytime high
Amman	11	22
Aqaba	16	32
Deserts	10	26
Jordan Valley	17	32

But eutrophication is not the only danger. Since the development of the industrial zone between Amman and Zarqa the levels of mineral and elemental pollution in the Zarqa River have increased substantially. The industrial zone consists of a detergent plant, paint distilleries, beer factories, dairy products factories, textiles plants, the refinery, tanning plants, paper and steel mills and other factories, all of which discharge their wastes untreated into the Zarqa River.

The wastes have already changed the physical conditions of the stream. Analyses of some wells in the area indicate gross pollution from nitrates, cadmium, potassium, sulfuric acid, chlorine and sodium. These wastes are making their way to the reservoir.

The three main cities in the catchment area, Amman, Zarqa and Jerash, all discharge their waste either directly or indirectly into the Zarqa River or one of the other tributaries in the catchment area. Even when the treatment plants for the three cities are completed between 1980 and 1982 the effluent flow will be discharged into the stream. Thus the threat of higher nitrate pollution will increase.

The gradual increase in the concentration of toxic elements will be of great significance for agriculture.

Another factor is the high level of salinity in the reservoir. According to Dr. Salameh, the total dissolved salts have been increasing in the reservoir. The levels already exceed 1,200 milligrams per litre last year, while the WHO limit for salinity is 1,500 milligrams per litre.

So unless steps are taken to halt the contamination of the Zarqa River, the King Talal Dam reservoir will become increasingly unfit for use as time goes on, defying treatment.

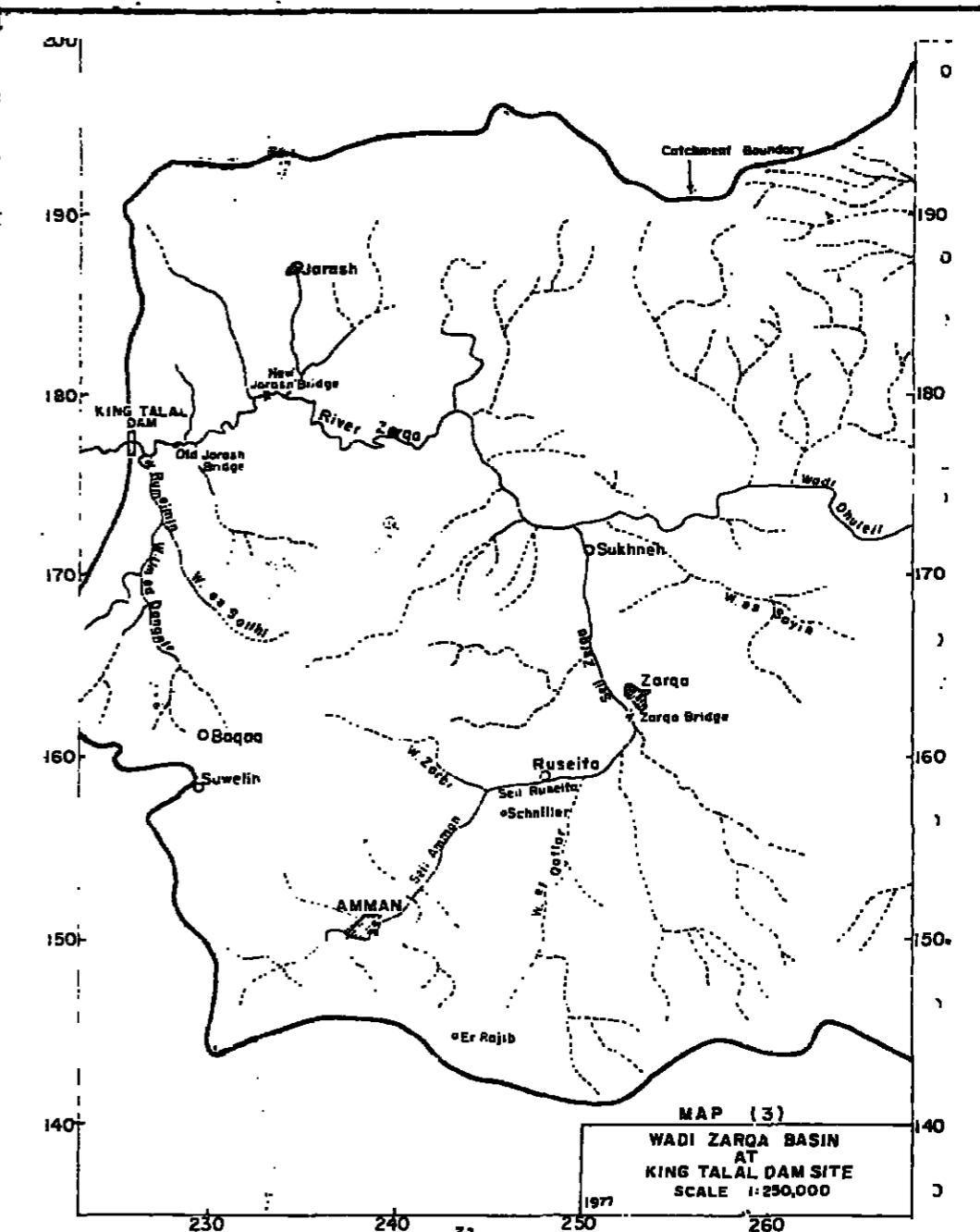
*Tomorrow:  
The rainfall shortage*

## Crime defence organisation expels Egypt

AMMAN, May 15 (JNA) — The executive council of the Arab Organisation for Social Defence Against Crime has suspended Egypt's membership and called for a general assembly meeting to consider the transfer of the organisation's headquarters from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, Jordan or Tunisia.

This was announced here today by Amman police chief Col. Yusuf Gharaybeh upon his return from the meeting which ended in Riyadh on Sunday.

He said the council, made up of representatives from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Abu Dhabi, also discussed financial and administrative matters pertaining to the organisation in the light of decisions made at the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Baghdad.



This map shows the catchment area for the King Talal Dam. All of the tributaries flow into the Zarqa River which feeds the reservoir.

## AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	8,051	—	6,750	6,700
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	2,791	15,100	15,450	15,100
Jordan Phosphate Mines	JD 1,000	3,076	2,230	2,250	2,230
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	147	1,480	1,540	1,470
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	5,301	1,010	1,020	1,020
Dar Alhadia Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	2,983	2,660	2,710	2,700
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	950	0,950	0,960	0,950
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	5,086	1,370	1,380	1,380
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1,000	127	0,840	0,880	0,850
Arab Aluminium Co.	JD 1,000	88	0,870	0,900	0,880
Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries Co.	JD 5,000	44	4,400	4,420	4,400
Jordan Dairy Co.	JD 1,000	210	1,400	1,420	1,400
Arab Development and Investment Co.	JD 2,000	1,170	1,320	—	1,300
Arab Bank	JD 10,000	440	88,500	90,900	88,000
The Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	2,240	—	1,200	1,120

Total volume traded, Tuesday, May 15: JD 32,704

Total number of shares traded: 17,158

Par Value	Volume Traded	Number Traded	Year of Maturity	Selling Price
Government Development Bonds	JD 5,000	2,307	1980	5,010
	JD 5,000	1,827	1982	5,220
	JD 5,000	1,545	1986	5,150
	JD 10,000	3,865	1987	10,200

Total volume traded: JD 10,544

Total number of bonds traded: 1,689

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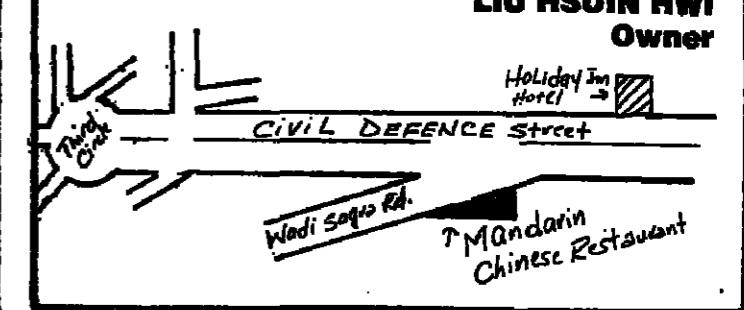


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Tiny models of British, American and Swiss soldiers are attracting international interest and export orders for their makers, a married couple from Mid Glamorgan, Wales. Since establishing their business five years ago at their home in Pontycymmer, Mr. Frank Scroby and his wife Jane have made 250,000 models of which 45,000 were sold in the USA last year. Concentrating mainly on British soldiers from the Zulu war of 1879 up to the outbreak of World War I, Mr. and Mrs. Scroby are manufacturing 1,000 models each week. The 54-millimetre replicas are made of tin alloy, have movable arms and are finished in fine detail. Against the background of the valley where they live, Mr. and Mrs. Scroby display some of their range of models, which include the Mounted Queen's Dragoon Guards, the Pipes and Drums of the Black Watch Regiment and Zulu warriors from southern Africa. (COI photo)

## JORDANTIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Australia wins Nations Cup tourney

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 15 (R)—John Alexander, with his whiplash first service working powerfully, led Australia to victory in the Nations Cup international men's team tennis championship here yesterday. Australia beat Italy 2-1 in the final, with Alexander winning his singles match and joining Phil Dent in a doubles victory which clinched the tie. Alexander outclassed Italian number one Corrado Barazzuti in the opening singles 6-2, 6-0. Adriano Panatta competently disposed of Dent 6-3, 6-3 to level the tie, but the Australian pair beat Panatta and Paolo Berioli 6-3, 7-6 in the doubles.

### African boxing tourney advanced to July

NAIROBI, May 15 (R)—This year's East and Central Africa Boxing Championships here have been brought forward from August to July, Kenya Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) officials said yesterday. The annual tournament for Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Seychelles and Mauritius will now take place between July 24 to 27, one week after the end of the all-Africa championships in Benghazi, Libya. "We expect the member countries of the East and Central Africa Boxing Confederation of stick to the new dates and bring their teams here direct from Libya," ABA Secretary Harrison Kilonzo said. The all-Africa championships are scheduled for July 6 to 18.

### U.K. rugby teams arrive in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, May 15 (R)—The first two of a string of British club and country rugby sides due to tour South Africa during the next few months have arrived in the country. Middlesex and Surrey this week begin a series of matches against South African club, provincial and invitation teams. A star-

tudded Surrey squad, captained by Welsh centre Keith Hughes and including nine internationals, announced on its arrival that it would also play the Rhodesian national side in Salisbury on Saturday. The match, which defies a 14-year-old British Government ban on representative games with the outlawed nation, was kept under wraps until the Surrey players had left Britain to avoid political pressure for its cancellation. The British tour is seen as an important boost for South African rugby after the failure of planned French tours by Springbok and Transvaal sides.

### Somerset out-wickets Gloucestershire

LONDON, May 15 (R)—Somerset coasted to a seven wickets win over Gloucestershire in their Benson and Hedges Cup cricket match yesterday. Without their captain, Mike Procter, who injured his back playing squash on Saturday, Gloucestershire were dismissed for only 120 runs. Somerset reached their modest victory target in 24 overs, with Peter Roebuck making the top score of 44, including eight boundaries. Paul Todd, Nottinghamshire's 26-year-old opening batsman, hit 176 in the friendly match against Sri Lanka—two short of his career-best score. The adventurous Todd thumped four sixes and 26 fours, helping his team reach 408 for nine declared and a first innings lead of 122. In the mid of the Nottinghamshire run spree, Sri Lanka left-arm spinner Jegannathan had a fine spell in which he took four wickets in ten balls. He finished with figures of four for 92. At the close of the second day's play, Sri Lanka had lost three second innings wickets for 25 runs.

### Arsenal draws with Chelsea

LONDON, May 15 (R)—Arsenal, showing signs of reaction from their thrilling English Football Association Cup final victory over Manchester United on Saturday, ended up their league pro-

gramme last night with a 1-1 draw with Chelsea, the bottom club in Division One. In lower spheres, Watford clinched a place in the second division with a 4-0 avalanche over Hull City and Wimbledon gained promotion from the Fourth Division with a 1-1 draw against Barnsley. Millwall, fighting to avoid relegation from the Second Division, beat West Ham United 2-1 and now need to win their last two games by a total of eight clear goals to escape the drop. For Arsenal, Malcolm MacDonald marked his comeback after missing virtually the whole season with a knee injury by scoring the equalising goal. The cup winners trailed for most of the match to a Chelsea goal in the eighth minute by Gary Stanley and it was not until the 81st minute that MacDonald put Arsenal on terms. His header beat Chelsea's 37-year-old goalkeeper Peter Bonetti, who put up a superb display in his 600th and final league appearance for the club.

### China slams U.K. decision on Taiwan

PEKING, May 15 (R)—The athletic association of China last night bitterly attacked the British high court decision upholding an appeal by Taiwan's track and field association against its expulsion from the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in favour of China. A statement from the Chinese association described the high court decision, handed down on April 2, as "invalid" and "utterly ridiculous." The statement recalled that the IAAF congress held in Puerto Rico in October last year had voted for the recognition of the athletic association of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of China in the IAAF. It said the resolution was in complete conformity with the constitution of the IAAF, but Taiwan had brought an action against the international body before the high court in London (site of the IAAF headquarters) to reverse the resolution. The statement said it was "utterly ridiculous" for the high court to have agreed to deal with the case. The IAAF, the Peking statement said, was an independent, self-governing international organisation with full right to adopt resolutions according to its constitution and the will of the majority of its member associations. It described the high court action as "not only an interference in the internal affairs of the IAAF, but also an infringement on the rights of its members." The statement said it was well-known fact that there was only one China, the People's Republic, of which Taiwan was a province. It noted that at the meeting in Dakar on April 27, the IAAF council had decided to appeal against the high court decision and take all necessary measures to uphold the IAAF congress resolution. "We are confident that this decision will win the sympathy and support of all our member associations," the Chinese statement said.

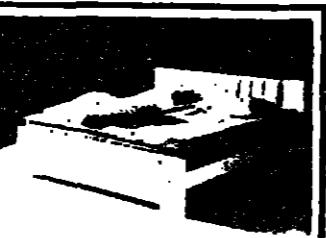
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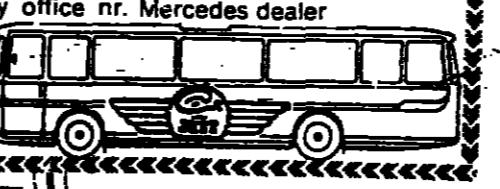
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# Estimated at about 300,000 Vietnam backs efforts to solve problem of S.E. Asia's refugees

JAKARTA, May 15 (R) -- Vietnam today pledged full cooperation with international efforts to solve the problem of hundreds of thousands of Indochina refugees, mostly Vietnamese, swamping Southeast Asia.

Vietnam was already doing its utmost to lessen the problems caused for other countries in the region, a Vietnamese delegate told the opening session of an international conference here on the refugee situation.

Hanoi's resident ambassador in Jakarta, Mr. Tran My, said "My country will also discuss bilaterally with each Southeast Asian country about this question, in conformity with its policy of contributing to peace and stability in the area."

He told about 80 diplomats representing 24 countries and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that his government was convinced the time would come when the present difficulties were eliminated and there would be no more reason for Vietnamese

to leave the country.

The driving force behind the meeting comes from the five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) -- Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines.

They are the countries of first asylum for most Indochina refugees displaced by war or what they see as deliberate oppression of ethnic Chinese in Vietnam.

The rapidly rising number of refugees in the ASEAN region is estimated at about 300,000 at present and the association has a vital interest in getting the problem under control.

ASEAN is therefore expected to make a joint approach at the ambassadorial conference here, seeking firm assurances from Hanoi that it will honour a pledge

**Mrs. Gandhi to lead march, rally protesting 'misrule' of Janata Party government**

NEW DELHI, May 15 (R) -- Former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, campaigning against special courts which might send her to jail, takes her case to the streets of Delhi tomorrow.

The 61-year-old Mrs. Gandhi will lead a procession in the old city of Delhi and address a rally which her colleagues hope to turn into a massive show of strength and support. Party officials said they expected as many as 100,000 people.

The rally is the culmination of a campaign against what Mrs. Gandhi calls the misrule of the Janata Party government, which ousted her from power two years ago. It is directed at special courts the government is setting up to try her and others for alleged offences during her 21-month emergency rule.

In a pamphlet to explain the reason for the special courts, the Janata Party referred to the "dark, tyrannical and traumatic" emergency days and said it was all done to give "all power to one person. The one person was the law, the one person was above the law." The courts are aimed at speeding up criminal proceedings now before ordinary tribunals against Mrs. Gandhi, her son Sanjay and former associates.

But Mrs. Gandhi, who said recently she was not afraid of being hanged, denounced the "black bill," passed by parliament last week, as an instrument of political vendetta. "We have a right to protest and protest will be peaceful," she said.

The government is taking special measures for tomorrow's rally following street violence on May Day when Mrs. Gandhi's son and his supporters, also protesting against the courts, clashed with police.

given to United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and control the outflow of refugees from Vietnam as far as possible.

The Vietnamese delegation at the meeting is led by a high-ranking diplomat, Mr. Vu Hoang, a special envoy of the Vietnamese deputy prime minister's office.

The other countries taking part in the meeting are: the United States, Australia, Canada, France, Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Japan, Switzerland, New Zealand, South Africa, and Brazil.

The delegates will mainly discuss an Indonesian offer to set apart an island off Singapore to establish a temporary processing centre for the refugees.

The centre on Galang Island could be established at an estimated cost of about \$19 million within about five months and accommodate 10,000 refugees.

But the Jakarta government first wants firm commitments from other countries on their contributions to the operational cost of the centre as well as binding undertakings that all refugees will be accepted by other countries in due course.

Some delegates, from ASEAN countries in particular, say that the centre could not function effectively unless Western countries agreed to accept considerably more refugees, and at a quicker pace than they have done so far.

**Thatcher announces legislative programme**

LONDON, May 15 (R) -- Britain's new Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today announced a heavy legislative programme aimed at putting the country onto a more right-wing course. The Conservative government's plans -- unveiled by Queen Elizabeth at the state opening of Parliament -- include measures to curb trade union power, reduce state ownership, toughen laws-and-order and cut income taxes.

The traditional Queen's speech outlining Mrs. Thatcher's programme contained provisions for 18 bills during the next 18 months.

It made clear that the prime minister, who has a 43-seat overall majority in the (lower) House of Commons, hopes to act fast to keep her election pledge to move Britain "in a wholly different direction."

Since gaining power in the May 3 general election, the Conservatives have boosted police and army pay and started looking for ways to trim bureaucratic expenditures.

Today's speech said the government would take firm monetary and fiscal measures, cutting government expenditure and Bri-



As 'punishment', according to Amnesty International

## Up to 100 children murdered in Central African Empire

PARIS, May 15 (AP) -- The imperial guard of Emperor Bokassa bayoneted, clubbed and stoned to death as many as 100 school children last month in the Central African Empire because they protested wearing uniforms to class, Amnesty International said yesterday.

The Paris section of the London-based human rights organization said the children, aged 8 to 16, were rounded up in the capital city of Bangui on April 18 and taken to the central Ngaramba prison to be punished.

The amnesty report said the children had thrown stones at official cars, including Emperor Bokassa's.

Amnesty International, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for its work on the plight of political prisoners, cited "numerous, varied and reliable sources, both African and European" for its report on the slayings.

Emperor said Emperor

"Others were stabbed with bayonets, others died from blows by clubs containing nails. Probably nearly 100 children were killed and buried in a common grave during the night by the guards," the report said.

The organisation said the students were locked in small cells sealed so tightly that about 20 of the children suffocated.

The next day, the 58-year-old Bokassa, who describes himself as "the father and protector of the children who are the future of the country," announced he was going to free those still in custody.

Bangui youth have been restive since January when the Ministry of Education ordered students to begin wearing the uniforms.

The January protests developed into violence when university stu-

dent rioters, according to Amnesty International, say "a reign of terror" has existed in Bangui since January.

The country, a landlocked nation in the heart of the African

Continent, gained independence from France in August, 1960, when it became known as the Central African Republic.

Its first president banned all

political parties and was ousted in a military coup led by Bokassa in 1966. Colonel Bokassa, then declared himself president and dissolved the parliament.

He was crowned in December 1977 in a lavish ceremony modeled after the coronation of the French emperor Napoleon in 1804. The festivities surrounding the ceremony reportedly cost an estimated \$50 million, half the national budget.

Mr. Zu Chang Zun, vice-chairman of the Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, said several U.S. presidents had visited South Korea, "but their visits were only the turning points to aggravate tension between the North and South."

"President Carter pledged in his election campaign to withdraw the U.S. Army from South Korea, but while loudly clamouring about withdrawing U.S. ground forces from South Korea, he strengthened the air force and naval forces there."

"As for the withdrawal of U.S. ground forces from South Korea, realisation of this will be difficult," Mr. Zu told Reuter.

Both North Korean officials attacked the U.S. for holding a massive joint exercise, code-named "Team Spirit '79," earlier this year with the South Koreans. They also accused South Korean authorities of building a concrete wall across the peninsula at the dividing 38th parallel, "to perpetuate the division of North and South."

At the same time he described Mr. Carter's planned visit to South Korea after economic summit talks in Tokyo next month as u-hopeful. Another senior official here bluntly suggested the visit would increase North-South tension.

North Korea's views were spelled out by Mr. Kim Yong Nam, a member of the (Communist) Workers' Party Poliburo, who told Reuters in Pyongyang recently that his government had suggested talks with the U.S. some time ago "and until now we keep our door open."

Mr. Zu said that if South Korea should take part in such a meeting on the grounds that the Seoul authorities had opposed the armistice at the time and had not signed it.

After the initial discussions with the U.S., Mr. Kim said, tripartite or even multi-party talks including South Korea could be held to discuss the general problem of

## Architect's home is island of energy

BRUSSELS -- Architect Luc Schutte, who lives near Brussels, has finally carried out a dream. To everyone who comes to admire his new house, Mr. Schutte explains that he doesn't spend a penny for electricity or heat. For the past year he has been living in the house he built himself in which electrical power is supplied by wind, heat by the sun and cooking gas by compost from his garden. Electricity is produced by a turbine and is stored in batteries in his basement. Solar panels absorb heat from the sun in a network of metal pipes filled with water. Hot water is stored in a large tank which takes up half the basement. His independent energy sources are so perfected that he is swamped with requests for similar installations. (Gamma photo)

## At UNCTAD meet Communist countries of E. Europe asked to open markets to Third World

MANILA, May 15 (R) -- Kenya today called on the communist countries of East Europe to match their words on helping developing nations with action and open their markets to goods from the Third World.

Kenyan Minister of Commerce and Industry, Ebudi Mwamanga, told the plenary session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here that the Third World was in many cases dependent on the capitalist countries to an excessive "and sometimes adverse" extent.

He said that improved access to the markets of the Eastern bloc nations was needed to redress this balance, and he called on them to remove all forms of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The removal of such barriers should be done on the basis of non-reciprocity and be non-discriminatory, Mr. Mwamanga said.

He also called on the Eastern bloc to help increased trade by

The question of expanded trade with the communists also came up today in one closed negotiating committee.

Confidence, however, where the committee decided trade relations among countries having different economic social systems, met, the communists indicated they would tell the Eastern bloc they want to feel the committee was the forum for discussion of East-West disturbances.

The discussion, which started in the afternoon, continued into the evening. Travellers from the Central African Empire, a former French colony, say "a reign of terror" has existed in Bangui since January.

The country, a landlocked nation in the heart of the African Continent, gained independence from France in August, 1960, when it became known as the Central African Republic.

Its first president banned all political parties and was ousted in a military coup led by Bokassa in 1966. Colonel Bokassa, then declared himself president and dissolved the parliament.

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The January protests developed into violence when university stu-

dent rioters, according to Amnesty International, say "a reign of terror" has existed in Bangui since January.

The country, a landlocked nation in the heart of the African

Continent, gained independence from France in August, 1960, when it became known as the Central African Republic.

Its first president banned all political parties and was ousted in a military coup led by Bokassa in 1966. Colonel Bokassa, then declared himself president and dissolved the parliament.

He was crowned in December 1977 in a lavish ceremony modeled after the coronation of the French emperor Napoleon in 1804. The festivities surrounding the ceremony reportedly cost an estimated \$50 million, half the national budget.

Mr. Zu Chang Zun, vice-chairman of the Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, said several U.S. presidents had visited South Korea, "but their visits were only the turning points to aggravate tension between the North and South."

"President Carter pledged in his election campaign to withdraw the U.S. Army from South Korea, but while loudly clamouring about withdrawing U.S. ground forces from South Korea, he strengthened the air force and naval forces there."

"As for the withdrawal of U.S. ground forces from South Korea, realisation of this will be difficult," Mr. Zu told Reuter.

Both North Korean officials attacked the U.S. for holding a massive joint exercise, code-named "Team Spirit '79," earlier this year with the South Koreans. They also accused South Korean authorities of building a concrete wall across the peninsula at the dividing 38th parallel, "to perpetuate the division of North and South."

At the same time he described Mr. Carter's planned visit to South Korea after economic summit talks in Tokyo next month as u-hopeful. Another senior official here bluntly suggested the visit would increase North-South tension.

North Korea's views were spelled out by Mr. Kim Yong Nam, a member of the (Communist) Workers' Party Poliburo, who told Reuters in Pyongyang recently that his government had suggested talks with the U.S. some time ago "and until now we keep our door open."

Mr. Zu said that if South Korea should take part in such a meeting on the grounds that the Seoul authorities had opposed the armistice at the time and had not signed it.

Leaving aside the presence of American troops in the South, Mr. Kim said the first step would be for North Korea and the U.S. to work out a peace agreement to replace the armistice which has been in effect since the end of what is called the "three-year war" in 1953.

He firmly rejected any suggestion that South Korea should take part in such a meeting on the grounds that the Seoul authorities had opposed the armistice at the time and had not signed it.

After the initial discussions with the U.S., Mr. Kim said, tripartite or even multi-party talks including South Korea could be held to discuss the general problem of

North Korea launched its own form of "ping pong diplomacy" late last month while playing host to the 35th World Table Tennis Championships in Pyongyang. Officials here took advantage of the biggest peacetime influx of foreign journalists to put across government thinking.

He said that if unification proved viable, Pyongyang would be prepared to enter into an interim context with both sides retaining their social structures.

We hold that we do not want a socialist system in Korea, and the South Korean authorities should not impose their system on us," he said.

Mr. Kim, who heads the national Department of the Central Committee, said interest of the U.S. and countries in South Korea did not suffer after reunification.

Mr. Kim acknowledged that there had been no negotiations with the U.S. for any regional agreement, but joined in.

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